

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-31 were previously pending in the application. Claims 7 and 20 are canceled; claims 1, 15, and 17 are amended; and new claims 32-36 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 8-17, 19, and 21-36 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claims 24 and 25 are allowed. In paragraph 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 9, 13-14, 17, 19, 22-23, and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Givehchi in view of Nagata. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 13-14, 17, 19, 22-23, and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walklin in view of Nagata. In paragraph 5, the Examiner objected to claims 6-7, 10-12, 15-16, and 20-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Amended claims 1 and 17 are equivalent to previously pending claims 7 and 20 (now canceled), respectively, rewritten in independent form. Since claims 7 and 20 were indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Since claims 3-6, 8-16, 19, 21-23, and 26-31 depend variously from claims 1 and 17, it is submitted that those claims are also allowable.


New claim 32 is equivalent to previously pending claim 10 rewritten in independent form. Support for new claims 33 and 34 can be found in previously pending claims 11 and 12, respectively. Since claim 10 was indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that claim 32 is allowable. Since claims 33 and 34 depend variously from claim 32, it is submitted that those claims are also allowable.

New claim 35 is equivalent to previously pending claim 15 rewritten in independent form. Support for new claim 36 can be found in previously pending claim 16. Since claim 15 was indicated as allowable, the Applicant submits that claim 35 is allowable. Since claim 36 depends from claim 35, it is submitted that claim 36 is also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/31/06
Customer No. 46850
Mendelsohn & Associates, P.C.
1500 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 405
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102



Yuri Gruzdkov
Registration No. 50,762
Agent for Applicant
(215) 557-8544 (phone)
(215) 557-8477 (fax)